

Bozeman Radiator Disaster

Here's a good radiator disaster pic:



Catching our antifreeze leakage in cooking pans.

It was in Bozeman, Montana, where we sprang a radiator leak during our drive from Indiana to Alaska in 1994. We managed to pull into a Napa Auto Parts Store parking lot before we completely overheated so we parked and let everything cool down. We caught the leaking antifreeze in pans because we were afraid Napa would kick us off their property if we flooded their lot with antifreeze.

As bad as that may have seemed, things quickly got worse. Among other things, our camp stove stopped working:



Laura with our faulty camp stove.

Things escalated fast after that initial inconvenience: I was trying to help Laura with the stove and was holding a bag can of kerosene & somehow caught it on fire.

I looked down & saw the fluid around the can's opening was beginning to ignite, so I unthinkingly hurled the can AT the Napa store building where it exploded almost immediately.

Here's the result:



Fire at the Napa store.

I was just thinking in terms of throwing it AWAY from the van and it just happened to be that the opposite of the van was Napa Auto Parts Store.

That got the store staff riled up more than antifreeze in their parking lot ever could have. Multiple staff members immediately came pouring out of the building wielding fire extinguishers. My first thought was to take a picture (above).

When brother Todd saw the explosion in his rear-view mirror, he just threw the van in neutral - coasted right over all those pans of antifreeze.

Laura fell down and peed her pants from laughing so hard.

It was freaking hilarious.